

FIGGON CREEK, IN.

SEE INDIANA FILE

UPPER 3 - SOUTH - INDIANA

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Abraham Lincoln before 1860

Pigeon Creek, Indiana

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Appleton, Wis.
11 July 1933

I shall esteem it a great favor if you will answer for me as many of these questions as you can without trouble, returning them to me as soon as convenient. I am leaving town for the rest of the summer next week and hope to use some of this information in Indiana before my return.

When was the name of Jonesboro changed to Gentryville? I find only Jonesboro on the Civil War maps.

Is Elijah Grigsby still living, and can you tell me anything of the reliability of his recollections? He located for me some years ago, three Lincoln homes near Little Pigeon very definitely, while two only are usually described.

Eli Grigsby is still living.

Can you send me or can you tell me if there exists anywhere a map of the Little Pigeon settlement, showing the exact location of the "half-faced camp", the church, mill, and all the many sites which Grigsby located for me, apparently with certainty.

O. V. Brown, Dale, Ind. has prepared a very interesting map of the Lincoln Country.

Is the Buckthorn valley so called to-day and is it the valley of Little Pigeon?

One never hears the first name above.

As I recollect the Little Pigeon Church is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Gentryville P.O. Is this correct?

About two miles

Is the Church about North East from Gentryville? If not, please give the direction.

Almost due east.

Is the site of the "half-faced camp" about half a mile south of the Little Pigeon Church?

Supposed to have been north.

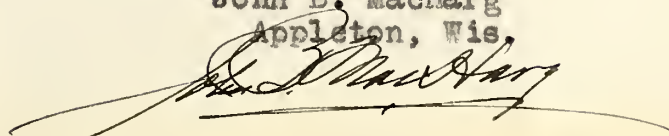
Who is best informed as to the Lincoln sites and history in Dale, Gentryville, or Lincoln City?

O. V. Brown Dale Ind.

For your help I shall thank you most sincerely

Truly yours

John B. MacHarg
Appleton, Wis.





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July
thirteenth
1933

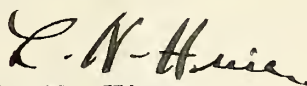
Mr. John B. MacHarg
226 South Morrison St.
Appleton, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

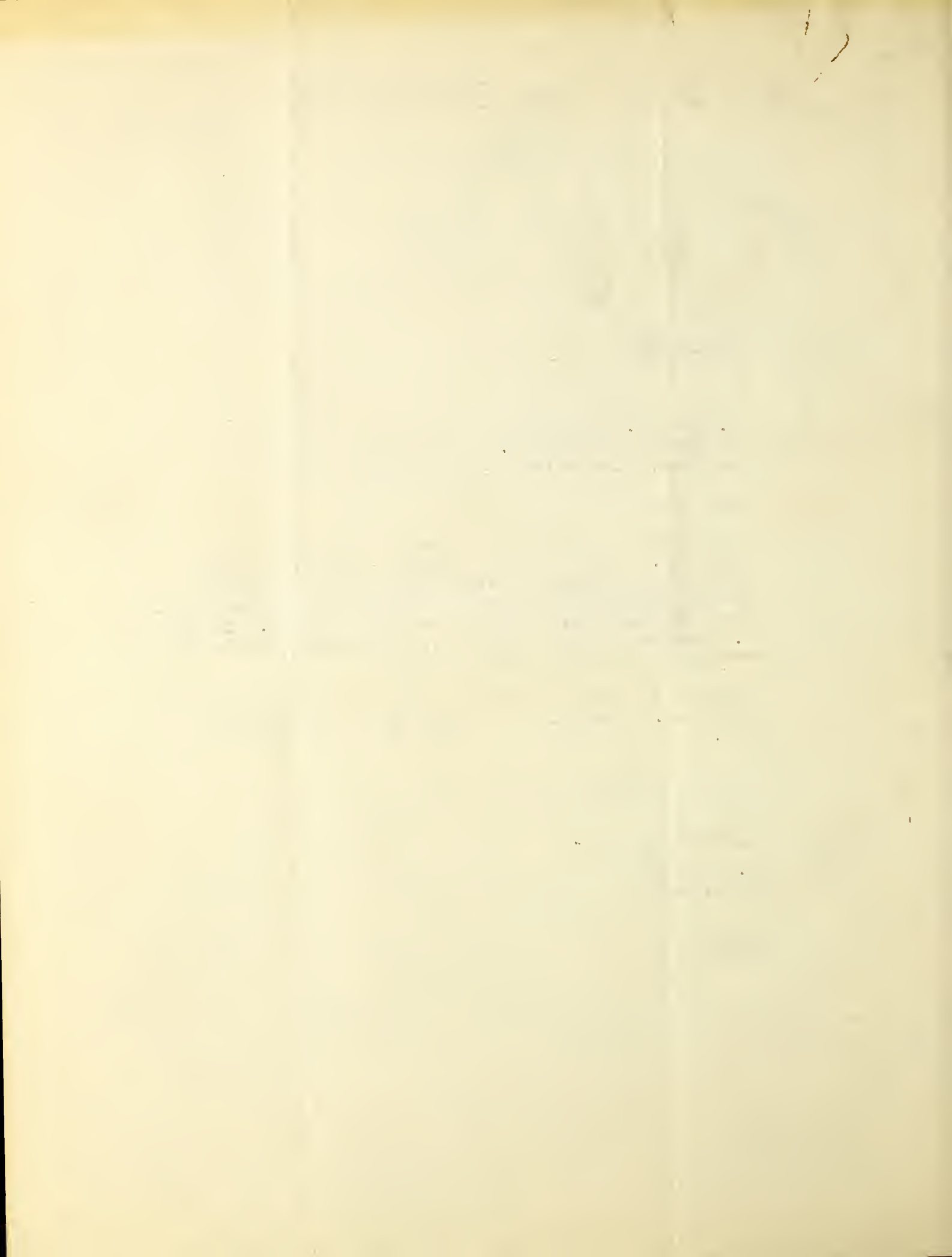
Your sheet of questions of recent date was duly received. Some of them I cannot answer. I live more than one hundred miles from Gentryville and am not familiar with some of the things you mention. I am sending your list of questions to Hon. Albert J. Wedeking of Dale, Indiana, with the request that he write you about these matters.

Please feel free to ask me about other matters at any time. I shall do my best to get answers for you.

Sincerely yours


L. N. Hines
President

LNHh



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Hon. Albert J. Wedeking
Dale, Indiana

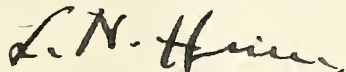
Dear friend:

Enclosed you will find a sheet of questions from Mr. MacHarg of Appleton, Wisconsin. I have written him to the effect that I am sending the questions to you with the request that you write the answers on the sheet and return it to him. I cannot answer some of the questions. Anything you can do for this man will be greatly appreciated.

I hope you are all right in every way.

With best wishes to you, I am

Yours very truly

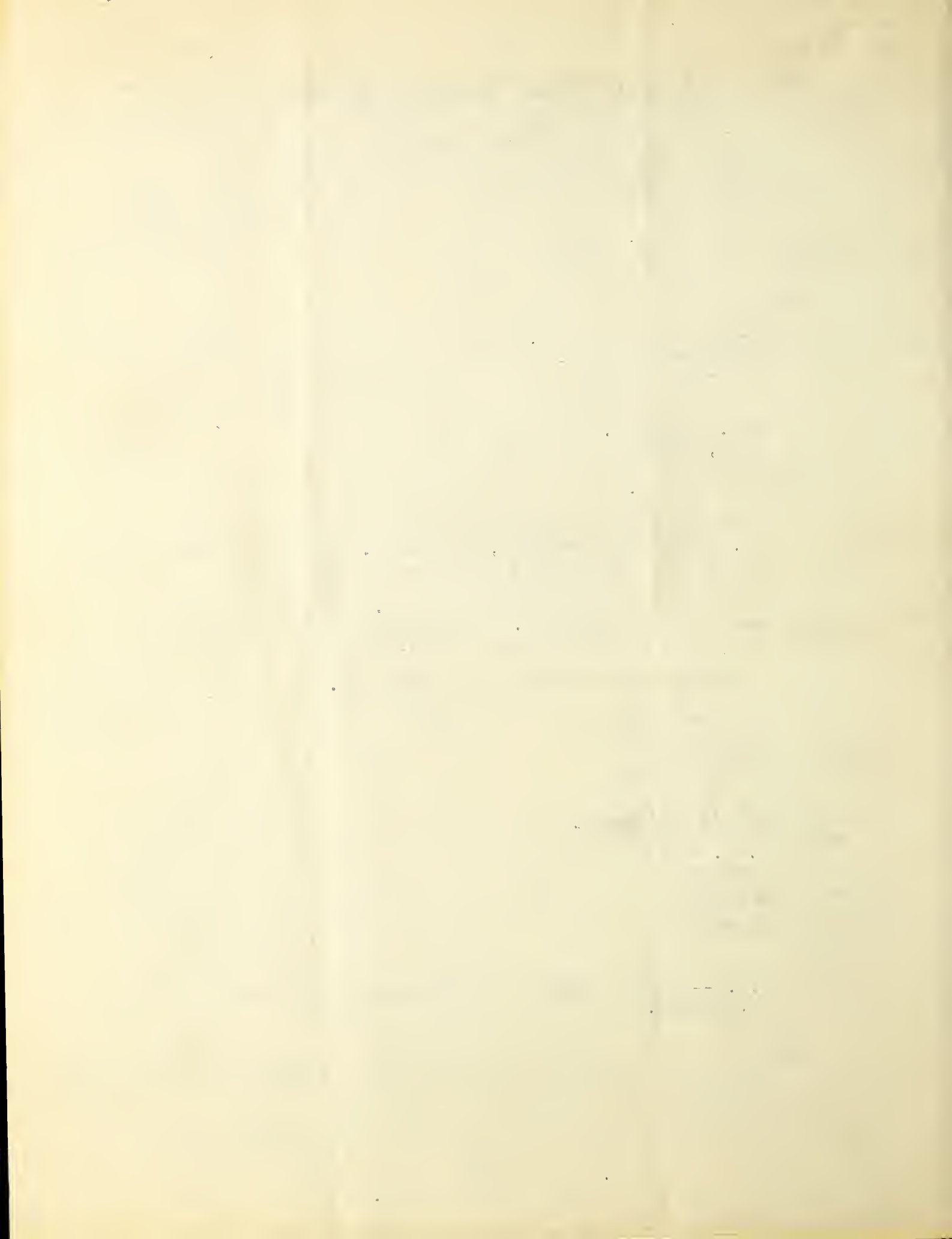


L. N. Hines
President

LNHh

P.S. -- I am enclosing a stamped envelope from Mr. MacHarg.

*Above letter explains why I answered
your questionnaire.*



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July 13th, 1933.

John B. McHarg,
Appleton, Wis.

Dear Sir:-

The site of Jonesboro is about three quarters of a mile west of Gentryville; The brick residence of Colonel William Jones, Lincoln's employer, is still standing and is owned and occupied by George B. Bullock. The store site adjoins it and is marked by a stone.

I do not know if Elijah Grigsby is still living or his reliability for truth and veracity. The old foundation stones of the Old Pigeon Baptist church may be seen in the graveyard near the present church.

A splitoff from the old church is called Little Pigeon Baptist church, the disagreement was on account of foreign missions; this church is about a mile from the Old Pigeon church, where Thomas Lincoln was a member. I do not know of any map of the Little Pigeon settlement, Mrs. Maas, a daughter of George Bullock prepared a map of Jonesboro as evidenced by the old foundation stones and chimneys still shown on the site of Jonesboro.

Gentryville was not known in Lincoln's day. It was laid off later.

I cannot say if the Buckthorn valley is so called locally. It is the valley of Little Pigeon creek.

Little Pigeon church is not the Lincoln church, it is about a mile from the old church, which is now a part of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln State park, and about half a mile south of the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Lincoln City is about east of Gentryville $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

I have been informed that the half faced camp was half a mile from the marker of the Lincoln cabin which is south of the first cabin.

Mrs. George B. Bullock could probably inform you as to who is the best informed on Lincoln sites and history in the vicinity of Gentryville, her address would be Gentryville.

Yours truly,

Wm L Barker

For your convenience I enclose an envelope with my August address. I am leaving for Colorado early to-morrow. (Bailey, Colo.)

31 July 1933

O.V.Brown, Esq.

Dale, Indiana

Dear Sir :

Through the courtesy of President Hines of Terra Haute and the Hon. A.J.Wedeking, I am informed that you have prepared a map of the "Lincoln Country", which I hope means the Lincoln sites in the neighborhood of Dale and Lincoln City, Gentryville, etc. I have never seen a map showing the places of that neighborhood connected with Lincoln's life. I should be much pleased to obtain a copy of the map and hope you may be willing to write me in regard to it. Some years ago I tramped over the fields with Elijah Grigsby and he showed me the spots familiar to him through recollection and tradition. He seemed to locate the "half-faced camp" with certainty. I hope your map shows it. He was certain apparently of other things of which I made careful record. I will enclose an excerpt from my notes and should be pleased if you will comment upon this matter.

I should like to visit Indiana again and locate some of the places definitely before it is too late to find them. I wonder if I would be likely to find you at home early in September and willing to assist me. I am not sure that I can make the trip but shall endeavor to do so.

For your assistance I shall than you sincerely.

Very truly yours

Statement of Elijah Grigsby to John B. MacHarg
26 June 1939

"The Lincoln's had three homes near Gentryville. The first half-faced camp was half a mile south from Pigeon Creek Church. Very near was the schoolhouse at the ~~sight~~ of which the remains of the old well or cistern are visible. Half a mile southwest is the spring on the farm of Edward Rose, (pronounced Rose by Mr. Grigsby.) Fifty years ago there were many houses about Pigeon Creek Church. (We visited the old still, and the corn cracking mill, also, site of sugar mill, and various homes of Crawford and Grigsbys. Elijah said he was born in a house standing near a large oak in a plowed field. The spring mentioned is near a recently planted grove of Catalpa trees. It is walled in with cement and has a fence about it)

After first winter in the half-faced camp near which the Lincolns cleared six or eight acres of land, they moved to a site one quarter of a mile east and a little north of Pigeon Church. Here Thomas built a cabin of ten or twelve inch "capline." It wasn't so large as the third cabin at Lincoln City. I think it was about fourteen by sixteen feet square. A low opening served as a door. It had no windows. A mud chimney built with poles and sticks was on the west end. The Lincolns lived here about two years. Yes, I am sure my grandfather said they lived here about two years.

They cleared a small farm. I remember the house well. I went to it with my grandfather, and he told me about it. I think it burned down about '76 when I was ten years old. The woods burned and set fire to what was left of the half-faced camp and schoolhouse. They burned up about the same time. I saw them, and I can make affidavit that what I say is true. My father told about the Lincolns living

where I told you. The Lincoln cabin at Lincoln City . I used to go there, I don't know what became of it. I think it burned. No, I think they took it down. Uncle Aaron and Mr. Lincoln were great friends. The old Gentryville Cemetery is so thick a rabbit can't get through. Mrs. Stalke can tell you all about the Crawfords. They are buried there."





Engoby at Lucerne
Spring



From Barrett 65

(Br. I 68, 69, 72, 76, 73u etc.)

Pigeon Creek, IN.

SEE INDIANA FILE

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